

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**February 7, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Shea.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Alderman Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith and Forest.

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Ash Street School), stated:  
My talk tonight is going to be about the Ash Street School. As you know the Ash Street School is not occupied now and you know what happens to unoccupied buildings when they're not occupied. Take the Harrington Fire Station on Lake Avenue...vandals got into that and burned it to the ground. I don't want to see anything happen to the Ash Street School so I'm proposing that we make and you may not agree...but, I'm proposing that we make a museum out of it. It has three floors...we can have one floor for Police, one floor for Fire and one floor for School museums...three museums located in the middle of the City of Manchester. It's a beautiful building in fact 1876 the Ash Street School won Architectural U. S. Centennial Exhibition...it's been around a long time and it is a beautiful building just like this is too. So, your Honor, I'd like to you set up a committee to explore this particular activity. Maybe other people are interested and I'm sure there are but I'd like to have you set up a committee and I'd like to be on the committee because I don't want to see anything

happen to the building. It's strategically located right here on Maple Street. In fact my stepmother went to the Ash Street School in 1909. Anyway that's what I'd like to have you do and I am concerned about the fact that the building is vacant.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Money), stated:

I noticed, I read the stories in the paper about the City Clerk's pay raise and I came here tonight to actually rebuke Jerome Duval for his explanation as to why he voted for that pay raise not so much because of the pay raise but because of the reason and I have no way of knowing what the full...what Mr. Duval's full remarks were but let me just say that one of the reasons we have these high priced lawyers for the city is to actually fight such complaints at the Labor Department and if Mr. Bernier were to get his pay raise he would be in good company because there are many department heads that receive more than he does and in fact we have people that have even greater responsibility than Mr. Bernier...the Mayor, for example, who earns actually far less and probably at some point something should be done about that. I am personally less concerned with a \$3,500 pay raise than I am with some of these other numbers that often come out of this body. I've been trying to find out and I haven't gotten the information yet exactly who voted for the \$5 million that went to the Silvestri project on Bridge and Elm. I drove by there on Saturday night and I only noticed one light on in the building...that was \$5 million for the people's money for a private luxury apartment complex...I haven't been too happy with that project...there are several others that amount to tens of millions of dollars. I am the former Co-Chairman of the Spending Cap Referendum project and we are going to be continuing with that either this year or next and we are now organizing with some political leaders to sponsor it so the aldermen should be looking for that, we haven't given up even though the Attorney General's Office declined the last referendum but we're going to make some adjustments and make sure that gets on the ballot at some very soon time.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk